MARVEL

43

WOLVERINE®
ORIGINS

WAY
BRAITHWAITE
REINHOLD
TROY

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WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Now, Logan has finally caught up with the mysterious figure known only as Romulus, the man that has been secretly manipulating him his entire life. Over the course of the epic battle that ensued, Logan learned that Romulus's grand scheme was for Logan and Daken—Logan's dangerously misguided son—to fight to the death, determining who would take Romulus's place at the top of the food chain.

But Logan knows that even if he kills Romulus now, he will be playing into Romulus's ultimate plan…and Daken will inevitably come for him, forcing Logan to kill his own son. The only answer to the problem as Logan sees it is to destroy Romulus's empire. And to do it he's trying to enlist the aid of a few powerful individuals. Bruce Banner and his Hulk-like son Skaar have agreed to help. Now with the help of the mutant teleporter called Cloak, Logan has infiltrated the fortress of the next person on his list, Kenuichio Harada, also known as the Silver Samurai, and he's asked Harada to train him to fight with the Muramasa blade…

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BOKUTO-- WOODEN PRACTICE SWORDS.

HE GETS *TWO*, I GET...

SNAP!

...ONE HALF.

I ASKED SILVER SAMURAI TO TRAIN ME IN THE USE OF THE ***MURAMASA BLADE***, A MYSTICAL SWORD FORGED, LITERALLY, IN ***THE FIRES OF MY OWN RAGE***. IT CAN KILL ANYTHING.

INCLUDIN' ***ME***.

〈BEGIN.〉

THAT'S WHY WE'RE USIN' THE ***BOKUTO***--SAME WEIGHT, SAME AERODYNAMICS, BUT A STRIKE FROM ONE O' ***THESE*** WON'T PUT MY LIGHTS OUT ***PERMANENTLY***.

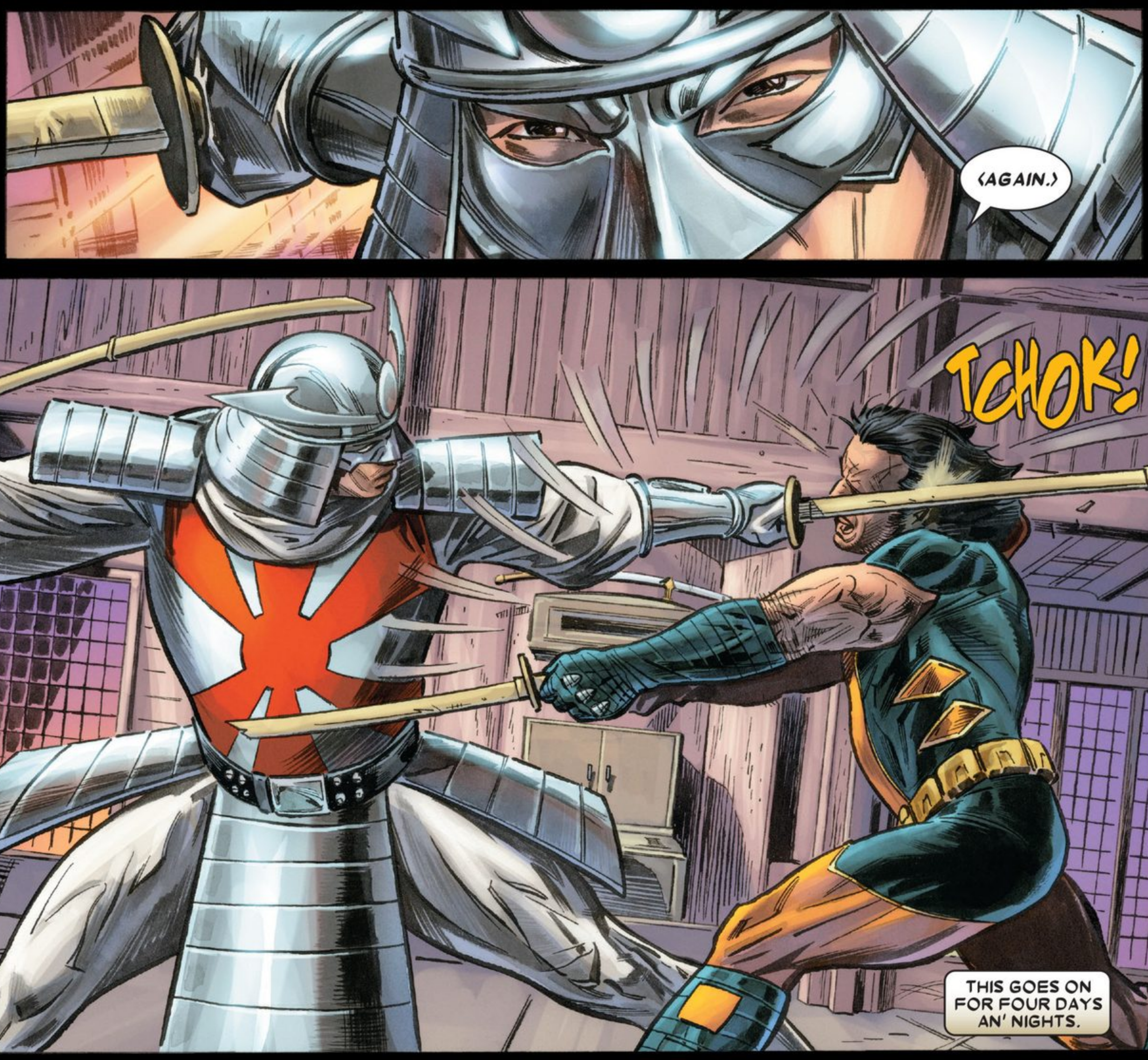
SSSHK!

JUST ***MOMENTARILY***.

I'M NO SLOUCH WITH A BLADE, BUT I'M *RUSTY*. *OUTTA PRACTICE.*
THE *LAST* OPPONENT I FACED WITH A SWORD IN MY HAND SHOWED ME THAT *ALL TOO CLEARLY.*

7 THE HARD WAY

PART THREE



DAY FIVE:

K-HUK!

YUP...

...'S ALL COMIN' BACK TO ME NOW.

⟨AG⟩-- KHOFF!

⟨AGAIN.⟩

I DON'T WANNA TAKE AWAY FROM THE MAN'S PRIDE BY TELLIN' 'IM THAT I'D CHOSEN THE *LEAST PAINFUL* OF THE *SIX* POSSIBLE STRIKES HE'D LEFT HIMSELF OPEN TO, SO INSTEAD...

MY *APOLOGIES*, BUT I CAN'T--*I DON'T HAVE TIME.*

THANK YOU FOR *TEACHING* ME, HARADA-SAN...*I AM IN YOUR DEBT.*

IT IS A DEBT I WILL ONE DAY *COLLECT*, TO BE SURE.

YEAH. *I KNOW.*

BUT I'LL DEAL WITH THAT WHEN IT COMES.

IF I'M STILL AROUND.

I'M READY. GET ME OUTTA--

WHATTA YA MEAN, YER *BUSY?* WHAT--?

DAGGER HAS BEEN TAKEN.

HAVE YOU TOLD THE X-MEN YET?

NO.

I'M HANDLING THIS.

ALONE.

SLOW DOWN, CLOAK. TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

I ONLY KNOW WHAT WITNESSES HAVE TOLD ME. SHE WAS IN THE CITY...

"...WHEN SHE ENCOUNTERED A BLIND MAN NEEDING HELP. DAGGER WAS ONCE BLIND, HERSELF. SHE HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR OTHERS IN THE SAME--"

"WHAT'D HE LOOK LIKE?"

BIG.

POSSIBLY DEFORMED.

POSSIBLY MUTE.

VICTOR HUDSON. ROMULUS'S RIGHT-HAND MAN.

SIR?

THIS IS MY FAULT.

SIR?

I CAN READ THAT FOR YOU, IF YOU--

THUK!

SKREEEEECH!

HEY!

HEY, WHATTA YOU THINK YER--

WHOA.

CLOAK, LISTEN TO ME:

IF YOU GO AFTER HER, SHE'S DEAD. I GUARANTEE IT. WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS WAIT.

WAIT?! WAIT FOR WHAT?

THE PHONE CALL.

DAGGER?

CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?

Y-YES...

THAT'S *GOOD.*

WHERE... *AM* I?

I HONESTLY *DON'T KNOW*-- I WAS DRUGGED AND BROUGHT HERE, JUST LIKE *YOU.*

THEN WHY AREN'T *YOU* TIED UP?

WELL, IF I WAS *TIED UP*...

...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO *THIS.*

CHOK!

I'M GONNA ASK THE QUESTIONS FROM HERE ON OUT, OKAY?

YOU'RE GONNA BE... SORRY YOU DID THAT.

I'M *ALREADY* SORRY--DO YOU THINK I *ENJOY* HURTING YOU? 'CAUSE I *DON'T*...

I HAVE A *DAUGHTER* ABOUT YOUR AGE.

AND THE ONLY WAY I'M GONNA GET TO *SEE* HER AGAIN IS IF YOU ANSWER *THIS QUESTION:*

WHAT IS WOLVERINE'S PLAN?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

SO CLOAK HASN'T *TOLD* YOU? THAT SEEMS KINDA ODD, YOU TWO BEING SO *CLOSE* AN' ALL...

...ARE YOU LYING TO ME?

NO.

BUT WHY DON'T YOU *HIT* ME AGAIN, JUST TO MAKE SURE?

CREEEEEEEEEEEEK--

'FRAID WE'RE *PAST THAT,* SWEETIE...

WHY ARE YOU SO SURE SHE'S BEING KEPT *HERE* IN *SAN FRANCISCO?*

'CAUSE IT'S WHAT *I'D* DO.

YOU KNOW WHO *TOOK* HER.

YEAH. *I DO.*

AN' I KNOW *WHY.*

ROMULUS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL I'M UP TO. HE'S BEEN WATCHIN' ME, TRYIN' TO MAKE SOME SENSE OF IT ALL...BUT IT *DOESN'T* MAKE SENSE.

IT AIN'T *SUPPOSED* TO--*THAT'S THE POINT.*

TELL ME!

I'VE ALREADY PUT YOU IN *ENOUGH* DANGER.

YOU *WILL TELL ME* WHO HAS *TAKEN* HER, WOLVERINE...

...OR I WILL TAKE YOU SO FAR INTO THE DARKNESS, YOU'LL *NEVER* SEE THE LIGHT.

I'M ALREADY *THERE*, CLOAK.

AN' I'LL BE DAMNED IF I TAKE ANYBODY ELSE DOWN *WITH* ME.

I'M GONNA TELL YA SOMETHIN' ELSE, *INSTEAD.*

"SOMETHIN' THEY'RE GONNA WANNA *KNOW*."

Y'KNOW WHAT? ***I BELIEVE YOU.*** I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ***ANY IDEA*** WHAT WOLVERINE'S PLAN IS. SO HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO:

WE'RE GONNA CALL YOUR FRIEND ***CLOAK***, AND ***YOU'RE*** GONNA ASK ***HIM***. ONCE HE ***TELLS*** US, WE'RE ALL DONE. WE GO HOME--YOU ***AND*** ME.

"AND IF I *TELL* THEM, THEY'LL LET DAGGER *GO*?"

I DON'T BELIEVE *YOU*.

"NO.

"BUT IT'LL BUY US SOME TIME."

LISTEN...

...I'M IN THE SAME BOAT ***YOU*** ARE, UNDERSTAND? I TOLD YOU ABOUT MY ***DAUGHTER***, RIGHT? WELL, SHE HAS A ***BROTHER...AND A MOTHER.*** IF I CAN'T GET THIS GUY WHAT HE WANTS, WE'RE ***ALL*** DEAD--YOU, ME... ***AND*** THEM.

SO PLEASE. JUST DO THIS.

"***PRODIGY*** IS SET TO TRACE THE CALL TO YOU AS SOON AS IT COMES IN. AN' ***TRUST*** ME..."

OKAY.

"...IT'S COMIN'."

CLOAK... IT'S ME.

DAGGER! LISTEN, I--

NO, CLOAK-- I NEED YOU TO LISTEN.

I'VE BEEN TAKEN BY SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW WHAT ***WOLVERINE'S PLANS ARE...*** DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?

YES, AND... I'M ***SORRY,*** DAGGER.

I ***KNOW*** YOU ARE, CLOAK. BUT--

I'LL TELL THEM WHATEVER THEY WANT TO KNOW.

I KNOW YOU WILL, AND THAT'S ***EXACTLY WHAT*** THEY WANT...

...BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT.

WHAT I WANT IS FOR YOU TO ***TRACE*** ***THIS CALL.***

"PRODIGY TO WOLVERINE-- I GOT IT."

YOU ***STUPID*** LITTLE--

IS THAT THE WAY YOU TALK TO YOUR ***DAUGHTER?*** OH, ***WAIT...***

...YOU DON'T ***HAVE*** A DAUGHTER, ***DO*** YOU?

NO-- WAIT!

I CAN STILL--!

HHRRRRGL...

HGG-G--

NO!

NO!

GET 'ER OUTTA HERE, CLOAK.

SHE'S SEEN *ENOUGH* KILLIN' FOR TODAY.

NO.

THIS ONE IS *MINE.*

CLOAK-- *PLEASE!*

DON'T.

YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT.

HRRRAAH!

I AIN'T.

HAD TO BE DONE, DAGGER.

...YOU MONSTER!

THERE WASN'T NOTHIN' INSIDE O' THIS MAN WORTH SAVIN'.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW...

DAGGER, NO--!

YYAAAH!

HHH...

NO!

PLEASE--
NO!

LET
ME GO!

THERE IS
NOWHERE *TO* GO,
WOLVERINE.

THIS IS
WHERE THE
DARKNESS
ENDS.

NOW DO YOU SEE?

AIN'T NOTHIN' I HAVN'T SEEN BEFORE.

I... SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.

NO, DAGGER...

...IT'S *ME* THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE WHAT *I* DID.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT THIS A SECRET FROM YOU. I SHOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO HELP HIM IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.

AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE HELD HIM BACK.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT ISN'T WOLVERINE'S *PAST* THAT HAUNTS HIM, DAGGER...

I...*STOPPED* HIM FROM SEEING THE TRUTH.

HE WASN'T READY.

"...IT'S HIS *FUTURE.*

"*THAT'S* WHAT WAITS FOR HIM IN THE DARKNESS.

"AND HE'S *TERRIFIED* OF IT."

WHERE TO NEXT?

CLOAK YOU...DON'T HAFTA--

YES.

"I DO."

BE THERE.

WHEN HE *IS* READY.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RETREAT INTO THE PAST, TO REPEAT A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE BECAUSE IT'S...FAMILIAR.

KNOWN.

BUT YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THE PAST--AND YOU CAN'T IGNORE THE *FUTURE* IN THE HOPE THAT IT WON'T *HAPPEN*. YOU HAVE TO MOVE *FORWARD*.

SO, AGAIN:

WHERE TO NEXT?

THE RAFT:

WHY DO YOU KEEP BRINGING ME FOOD...

...WHEN YOU KNOW I DON'T *EAT?*

IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU LIKE *TALKING* TO ME, BECAUSE YOU NEVER *SAY* ANYTHING.

SO IS IT...

...BECAUSE YOU LIKE *LOOKING* AT ME?

I'M A WOMAN.

AND THIS IS A *PRISON.*

AN' *THIS* IS A PRISON *BREAK.*

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT